



# COMMUNITY FIREGUARD



## BE AS READY AS YOU CAN BE THIS FIRE SEASON

**Community Fireguard is CFA's most comprehensive fire safety program.**

Take control of your own bushfire safety and be better prepared to:

- Plan for a range of scenarios
- Make informed decisions when it counts
- Maintain a fire smart house and garden

### Is it for me?

If you are passionate about keeping your home and your family safe, and can get together with your neighbours or other locals from around your area, then Community Fireguard is for you. This program is available for residents in high risk bush or grass fire areas.

### How much does it cost?

Community Fireguard is free of charge.

### How many people do I need to get together to form a group?

As a general rule you will need to include people from at least four or five households in your group. But this might vary depending on your local area – your first step should always be to speak to CFA.

### Where are the meetings held?

Once you have your group together, CFA will come to you.

Community Fireguard meetings are held in people's homes or local community centres, at a time that's convenient for the group - usually on weekends or in the evening.

[cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfire](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfire)



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## How much time do I need to commit?

The Community Fireguard program contains around eight hours of material which can usually be covered in four to six sessions. This includes a local “street walk” and other hands-on activities.

## How do I benefit from doing this with my neighbours?

The program is a great way to get to know your neighbours and talk about how you can work together in order to reduce everyone’s risk.

Research shows that active participants in Community Fireguard have been less likely to experience losses after a bushfire.

## What’s CFA’s role?

CFA fire safety specialists facilitate each meeting. They’re there to keep discussion on track, make sure all the important information is covered and answer your questions.



## Can CFA continue to support my group after we’ve finished the main program?

Yes – if your group chooses to stay together you’ll be able to request extra sessions, including updates ahead of each fire season. CFA can also provide you with the latest bushfire information or resources free of charge.

Many groups also hold their own gatherings, working bees and social activities from year to year.

*“Every group I go out to is different, and every individual has something they can get out of it.*

*That’s the beauty of a program like Community Fireguard – it’s personalised but there’s that sense of all working together.”*

*- Lisa Keedle,  
Community Fireguard facilitator.*

## What happens if I have to miss a meeting?

Community Fireguard works best when everyone attends every session, but we understand this may not always be possible.

CFA can almost always support groups or individuals to catch up on topics they have missed. From time to time specialist topic meetings are held in response to local demand.

## Will I receive advice about defending my property?

This program can help you make informed choices about leaving early and the resources needed to defend a property. It also covers how to make your property more likely to survive a fire, whether or not you are at home and able to actively defend.

CFA offers an optional “Stay and Defend” workshop as part of Community Fireguard.

## How can I get started?

Contact CFA headquarters on 03) 9262 8444 and request the Community Education Coordinator for your CFA region.